Problems of sugarcane growers

2603. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any formula has been evolved to help the sugarcane growers out of the crisis faced by them; and

(b) the number of sugarcane growers suffering alongwith the latest figures of accumulated arrears of cane dues and other parameters of the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group to address the problems of the sugar industry.

The amount of cane price dues payable by sugar mills to sugarcane farmers for the current sugar season is about Rs. 3212 crores as on 15.6.2003.

Sale of commodities in hotels at M.R.P.

2604. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Star category hotels and other fast food joints are not charging the customers according to Consumer Affairs Packaged Commodities Rules, 1997 on various items like cold drinks and drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what action Government have proposed against the owners of these hotels/fast food joints;

(d) whether it is also a fact that according to the above rules, all the items sold at the hotels are sold at printed Maximum Retail Price (MRP); and

(e) if so, how many five star hotels are not selling those commodities at MRP and the action taken against them by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.